

REMARKS

As noted in the August 23, 2006 Response, Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-037182, which is one of the priority applications of the present application, was filed on February 14, 2003, prior to the April 17, 2003 reference date of Rudell et al. Applicant submits herewith an English translation of this priority document, which is believed to fully support the claims herein under 35 U.S.C. Section 112. It is thus believed priority has been perfected and that Rudell et al. should be withdrawn as "prior art", i.e., is not applicable to the present invention. See 35 U.S.C. § 119(b) and 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a).

III. CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-39 are now in condition for allowance.

If there are any additional fees associated with this Response, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this Response, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone conference with the Examiner to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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9/25/06

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